

Remarks

Claims 84-102, 109-113, and 141-144 are pending in the Application.

Claims 97-102 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

Claims 84-96 and 109-113 stand allowed.

Claims 97-102 stand rejected.

Claims 141-144 stand objected to.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Examiner has rejected each of Claims 97-102 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Final Office Action, at 2-3. Applicants traverse each of the rejections of these claims. Claims 97-102 have been cancelled herein without prejudice and are respectfully withdrawn from Examiner's consideration.

II. CLAIMS OBJECTED TO

Examiner has objected to Claims 141-144 as being dependant from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Final Office Action, at 3.

Applicant has rewritten claims 143 and 144 depend from Claim 98, which in turn depends from Claim 97. Applicant has rewritten both of Claims 143 and 144 in independent form and included all of the limitations of Claims 97 and 98.

As to Claims 141 and 142, Applicants note that they intended to draft Claims 141 and 142 to depend directly from Claim 97, not Claim 98. In fact, prior to the present amendments, prior Claim 141 is verbatim of prior Claim 143, and prior Claim 142 is verbatim of prior Claim 144. Thus, it would be duplicative for Applicants to rewrite Claims 141 and 142 to include all of the limitations of base Claim 97 and intervening Claim 98.

In a telephone discussion with the Examiner on June 17, 2004, Applicants's counsel discussed this inadvertant dependence of Claims 141 and 142 from Claim 98, and the intended dependence of these claims to be directly from Claim 97. At such time, the Examiner indicated to Applicant's counsel that Claims 141 and 142 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 97, even in the absence of the limitations of intervening Claim 98.

Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten both of Claims 141 and 142 in independent form and included all of the limitations of base Claim 97, but not intervening Claim 98.

III. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicant that the Claims in the Application are now in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance of such Claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call Applicant's attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

Respectfully submitted,

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